

MINUTES
Town of North
July 10, 2006
North Town Hall

Mayor Jeffcoat called the regular meeting of Council to order at 7:00 p.m. and declared a quorum. Present were Council members Drew, Binyard, Lane and Gleaton were in attendance. Also in attendance were Mark Fallaw, Chief of Police, and Beth Kincaid, Town Clerk.

Mayor Jeffcoat welcomed visitors.

The Minutes from the June 12, 2006 meeting were approved as corrected.

Special Presentations:

Mayor Jeffcoat introduced CPL Drew Bartow and SPC Jones from the 360th Civil Affairs Brigade, Ft. Jackson, SC. CPL Bartow explained he and SPC Jones are with the Intelligence and Security Battalion. They are in North to conduct preliminary site surveys for a field exercise September 16 and 17, 2006, at North Air Field and in the Town of North. This will be a real-life exercise that involves an air drop of personnel at North Field. There will be four teams and they will set up sites at North Health Center, North Elementary, North High School and the North Substation. They will simulate situations at these locations as though they were in a foreign country such as Iraq and will have participants of the USC ROTC to role play the "foreign citizens". They will check road conditions, set up mock dental and health clinics, evaluate educational needs, and will assess "the citizen's" needs and access to the services and provide what is needed. Jones stated they will be bringing their own support personnel with them.

Highway 321 Report:

Jeffcoat and Steele gave an update on the HWY 321 project. Steele reported traffic will be swapped on July 24, 2006, with the railroad side constructed. Then they will flip to the business side. There was discussion about parking. Drew has put up signs saying "Business Parking in Back" and he offered the remaining signs for anyone who wants them. Jeffcoat added there will be parking in the market square as well. Parking behind Steele's office location will be considered as well. Steele said the anticipated timeframe for completion is 2 ½ months, weather permitting. He stated his preference is to put up a barrier walls at the center line and on the business side while work is being done on the railroad side, adding this would be the safest way to go. There was also discussion about lowering the speed limit. Steele, Jeffcoat, Chief and any other interested persons will meet next Monday.

Water/Sewer Report:

Mr. Jeffcoat presented the water sewer report for June 2006, (copy attached).

Police Report:

Chief Fallaw reviewed the North Police report (copy attached). It is notable that crime rate has dropped 43% since May. There has also been a 30% decrease in Group C offenses. The investigation of attempted robbery at the Triangle is ongoing. Fallaw reported that Reserve Officer Combs is doing well in training and will finish in September.

Fallaw was contacted by a company wanting to donate a transport van to the department. This will be an added enhancement as a partition can be set up and both female and male suspects can be transported. As it is now, male and females have to be transported separately, which requires the use of two officers and two vehicles.

Fallaw updated Council on a SCIEX meeting he attended. Any agency that has any law enforcement component has their data housed in Columbia. When a report is generated, it goes to SCIEX and is immediately available to participating agencies. Agencies have real-time access to the most current information and alerts. Fallaw and Herlong will attend training on Tuesday.

Old Business:

- Mayor Jeffcoat reviewed the financial statement (attached). He explained auditors are still working on Quick Books to bring old accounts up-to-date so we have a truer balance on all of the accounts.
- Jeffcoat advised Council that the alternate health insurance the Town was considering was not any better than the current health insurance, so we will stay with the current plan.
- The auditors will be back to work on the audit week after next.

New Business:

Jeffcoat asked Council to consider an ordinance change that would change the fiscal budget year to July 1 of the current year to June 30 of the following year. He explained this would bring us in line with the County and State fiscal budget year. He stated we would have a short budget year this year; then, we would be current at the next budget year. Councilwoman Lane made a motion to accept the first reading for the ordinance change and short budget year; Gleaton seconded and the motion carried unanimously. Jeffcoat said 2nd reading would be given at the next Council meeting.

Jeffcoat stated the Town has looked at a few water/sewer utility software systems, as the current system is outdated. CSI, a company out of Easley, SC, has a good system, which we have seen. The software purchase and set up cost is approximately \$3,200, with a monthly maintenance fee of \$275.00. If we pay the maintenance fee upfront, they will not charge us for 3 months of maintenance. Councilwoman Lane made a motion to approve the purchase of the CSI software; Councilwoman Binyard seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Jeffcoat reported the Community of Character Trait for July is Citizenship.

Mayor's Report:

Jeffcoat advised Council of equipment that needed to be added to our insurance policy. While we have tort liability insurance on the equipment operators, we do not have coverage if the equipment is stolen or damaged. Also, the coverage presently on the Town Hall building is inadequate at \$160,000 and should be increased. Council agreed somewhere in the neighborhood of \$500,000, but advised Jeffcoat to talk with the Insurance Reserve Fund further about this. Jeffcoat said the building donated by Dr. Owen should be added to the policy as well.

Jeffcoat announced Dr. Sanders from Swansea will have a full-time practice in North in the building located next to the drug store. He has a number of patients in North, so this will make things easier for them. This will be the first full-time doctor North has had since Dr. Nance. A question was asked about where Dr. Singleton would be going and the Mayor said it was his understanding Singleton did not renew his contract. Ron Cox out of TRMC was instrumental in bringing Dr. Sanders to North. He has asked if the Town might consider a "good faith" donation to help Dr. Sanders get set up. There was discussion among Council and it was decided not to take any action at this time.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Mrs. Virginia Dunn expressed her appreciation to Town staff and others for their assistance and kindness during the primary and runoff elections. She also gave a special note of appreciation to CPL Bartow and SPC Jones and all of the service people who protect our country.

There being no further business, Mayor Jeffcoat adjourned the meeting at 7:58 p.m. Reverend Wright closed the meeting in prayer.

The next Council meeting will be held on Monday, August 12, 2006 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Beth Kincaid

APPROVED: JULY 10, 2006 MINUTES

Mayor Earl Jeffocat: _____

Council Members:

Paul Drew: _____

Rose Binyard: _____

Harriet Lane: _____

Aubrey Gleaton: _____